AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #309

BOOK THREE: Fire
CHAPTER NINE: "Nightmares and Daydreams"

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FADE IN:

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - NIGHT

Sokka steps out of the bushes, into a clearing. We widen to reveal that the group has emerged at the top of a TALL BLACK CLIFF SIDE, modeled after the White Cliffs of Dover, overlooking a natural harbor. Sokka checks a map.

SOKKA
This is it -- the official rendezvous point for the invasion force...

They look around at their surroundings and begin setting up camp.

TOPH
How did you pick this place?

SOKKA
Before we split up, my dad and I found this island on a map. It's uninhabited, and the harbor surrounded by cliffs seemed like the perfect secluded place.

KATARA
Nice choice, Sokka. And we're here four days ahead of schedule.

Aang shoots straight up into the air in surprise.

AANG
Wait, four days?! The invasion's in four days?! (ANXIOUS SOUND)

Sokka, who is now bedding down for the night, pulls his sleeping bag over his head.

SOKKA
(yawning)
Whatever. That's like... four days from now. Let's just calm down... and... (HE STARTS SNORING)

KATARA
Sokka's got the right idea, Aang. We're here, we're ready. The best thing we can do now is get plenty of rest.

Katara and Toph also settle in. Aang reluctantly lies down too.

AANG
I guess...

Aang still looks worried as he closes his eyes, and drifts off to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. AANG'S DREAM FIRE NATION PALACE - NIGHT

Aang finds himself inside of a magnificent Fire Nation palace. Using an air cannon technique, he bursts through a large, secure door into a throne room.

INT. AANG'S DREAM FIRE NATION THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aang assumes a fighting stance and finds himself face to face with Firelord Ozai!

AANG
Your days of tyranny are over, Firelord. I'm bringing you down!

Ozai sizes Aang up.

FIRELORD OZAI
Really? How do you plan on doing that... when you're not even wearing pants?

Aang looks down to see that he is indeed not wearing pants.

AANG
Oh no...

Embarrassed, he backs out of the throne room with his hands over his privates.

FIRELORD OZAI
(CACKLES WITH DELIGHT)

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - LATE NIGHT

Aang suddenly awakens, finding himself safe with Momo. He looks down to his lower half, relieved.

AANG
It was just a dream, Momo. I still have my pants.

Aang gets up with a determined look on his face.

AANG (cont'd)
Well... I better keep training.

He walks over to some shrubs and begins kicking them.

INT. ZUKO'S CHAMBERS - MORNING

Prince Zuko is getting dressed to go out and greet the day. Servants line the halls of his palace, each greeting him and offering different luxuries.

SERVANT 1
Fresh fruit, Prince Zuko?

SERVANT 2
May I wash your feet, sir?

Zuko politely declines.

SERVANT 1
Head massage?

SERVANT 2
Hot towel?

Zuko accepts the hot towel, WIPES his face, crumples it and hands it back. The servant bows, and Zuko smiles and keeps moving. It's good to be the prince.

EXT. FIRE NATION PALACE - SECONDS LATER

As Zuko walks down the street, lots of adoring fans WHISPER and point excitedly. Some even fall to their faces and bow. Zuko smiles slightly and waves, exciting his fans even more. Then, just as a crowd is beginning to form, the four servants from the palace arrive carrying his palanquin.

SERVANT 1
Prince Zuko -- is something wrong?
You didn't take the palanquin.

ZUKO
I'm just going to Mai's house.
It's not far.

SERVANT 1
It's not a prince's place to walk
anywhere, sir.

Zuko shrugs and climbs into the carriage. The servants carry him right across the street to Mai's house and drop him off.

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - MORNING

Aang continues to whack away at another shrub. The other kids are all woken by the loud RUSTLING. Katara nods to Sokka as if to say, "I'll check on him." She gets out of her sleeping bag and approaches Aang.

KATARA
(concerned)
Hey. How long have you been up?

AANG
A couple hours. I've got a lot more skills to refine if I'm going to fight Ozai.

He pauses as he hacks down another bush. He looks around and realizes that there aren't any left to practice on -- lots of loose tumbleweeds are left in his wake.

KATARA
You know, there is such a thing as over-training...

AANG
You don't get it, do you? My form is bad, I'm sloppy, and I still don't know any Firebending. Not even the basics!

SOKKA
That's okay, Aang. The eclipse will block all Firebending anyway. You don't need to know any.
(beat)
Plus, it's a stupid element.

Aang pauses uneasily.

AANG
Okay, well I still have to work on everything else. I'd better spend the whole day training...

Katara and Sokka exchange concerned glances.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - EVENING

The kids are bedding down in their sleeping bags once again.

AANG
G'night Katara, g'night Sokka, g'night Toph, g'night Appa, g'night Momo, g'night Appa and Mo--

TOPH
Go to sleep already!

HOLD ON Aang -- he's exhausted from training all day, but still seems as anxious as ever. He closes his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. AANG'S DREAM FIRE NATION PALACE - NIGHT

Aang finds himself inside the Firelord's palace once again. With the same determination, he blasts open the door to the throne room.

INT. AANG'S DREAM FIRE NATION THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aang rushes in and assumes a fighting stance, just as he did before. Standing right in front of Aang is Firelord Ozai.

AANG
Your days of tyranny are over, Firelord! I'm bringing you down!

Aang remembers what happened last time -- he quickly checks below his waist. Thankfully, his pants are there.

AANG (cont'd)
And this time I brought pants.

The Firelord looks him up and down with scrutiny.

FIRELORD OZAI
So it seems. But are you prepared for... your mathematics test?

The Firelord unfurls a scroll with math problems on it and thrusts it into Aang's paling face.

AANG
Math test... Oh no! I forgot all about the math test!

FIRELORD OZAI
(CACKLES WITH DELIGHT)

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - 3 A.M.

Aang STARTLES awake. He's relieved but overwhelmed with anxiety at the same time.

AANG
I've got to be ready.

He gets up.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - NEARBY CLEARING - 4 A.M.

Everything is quiet while Aang practices his Ba Gua forms in the middle of the night. Katara comes over looking very sleepy, rubbing her eyes, etc.

KATARA
Aang, it's the middle of the night. You need to go back to sleep.

AANG
But I forgot my pants and my math test!

Katara has no idea what he's talking about. Katara grabs him by the shoulders and steadies him. Katara is barely awake herself.

KATARA
Aang -- sleep. Please, for me...

Aang nods and reluctantly returns with her to the campsite.

INT. MAI'S HOUSE - LATE NIGHT

Zuko is hanging out at Mai's house, with servants 1 and 2 waiting outside.

ZUKO
Tell me... if you could have anything you wanted right now, what would it be?

MAI
(genuinely thoughtful)
Mmm... a big fancy fruit tart... with rose petals on top.

ZUKO
You know, being a prince and all... I might just be able to make that happen.

MAI
(laughing)
That would be impressive.

Zuko gets up and leans his head out the door.

EXT. MAI'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The servants are immediately responsive.

ZUKO
Do you think you can find a fresh fruit tart for the lady? With rose petals on top.

SERVANT 1
Excellent choice, sir.

The servant nods and exits, as Zuko ducks back inside.

INT. MAI'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mai looks flabbergasted.

MAI
I guess there are some nice perks that come with being royalty. Though there's annoying stuff too -- like that all-day war meeting coming up...

Zuko is caught off guard with her mention of this meeting.

ZUKO
War meeting? What are you talking about?

MAI
Azula mentioned something -- I assumed you were going too.

ZUKO
(hurt)
I guess I wasn't invited.

Zuko drifts off into thought, returning to his usual moody self.

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - MORNING

Aang is sound asleep. A warm, friendly voice begins calling him out of his slumber.

WARM VOICE
Wake up, Aang... Wake up, sleepy-head...

Aang opens his eyes to see a BLURRY FIGURE standing above him. As he rubs the sleep from his eyes, the figure slowly comes into focus.

WARM VOICE (cont'd)
Rise and shine. You overslept... You missed the invasion.

Aang's eyes ZERO IN on the figure standing over him. Holy crap! It's Firelord Ozai!

FIRELORD OZAI
(CACKLES WITH DELIGHT)

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - DAYBREAK

Aang STARTLES awake again and leaps up. He looks around and sees Sokka, still sound asleep.

AANG
SOKKA GET UP I NEED TO KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS!

Sokka's warrior instincts kick in. He sits up in an instant and THROWS his boomerang...

SOKKA
What?! Who's talking?!

The boomerang travels full circle and BONKS him in the back of the head.

SOKKA (cont'd)
Ow!

By now, Toph and Katara are fully awake. Toph looks irritated.

TOPH
Relax, it's still two days before the invasion.

AANG
Sokka -- you've got to get up and drill your rock-climbing exercises.

SOKKA
What?

AANG
In one of my dreams you were running from Fire Nation soldiers, trying to climb this cliff... But you were too slow and they got you!

SOKKA
But that was just a dream. I'm a great climber.

AANG
Then climb that cliff --
(points to cliff)
CLIMB IT FAST!

Sokka looks bewildered, but he obeys and climbs the cliff.

SOKKA
(muttering)
Stupid Avatar. Stupid cliff. Stupid dream. I can climb fast!

Aang relaxes a little. Then he sees Toph taking a sip from her canteen, and he explodes again.

AANG
DON'T DRINK THAT!!

Toph SPITS out the liquid in her mouth.

TOPH
Why?! Is it poisoned?!

AANG
In my dream, we were right in the middle of the invasion, and you had to stop to use the bathroom! We died because of your tiny bladder!

Aang turns to Katara.

AANG (cont'd)
And you need to start wearing your hair up! In my dream, your hair got caught in a train, and--

She grabs Aang by the face, looking him in the eyes.

KATARA
Aang! I know you're just trying to help, but you really need to get a grip! You're unravelling...

Aang takes a deep breath and tries to steady himself. He nods in agreement with Katara.

AANG
You're right... I'm losing my mind.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - MORNING

Aang is now pacing back and forth, twiddling his thumbs compulsively.

AANG
It's like every time I think about how stressed I am, I just end up more stressed. I'm like a big, growing snowball of nerves.

Sokka seems unsurprised.

SOKKA
Of course you are. That's because you've got to fight the Firelord -- the baddest man on the planet. And you better win, or we're all done-for.

KATARA
Sokka! You're not helping.

SOKKA
What? It's true. That's the deal, he knows it.

Katara looks sympathetically at Aang, who is quivering uncontrollably.

KATARA
You know what? I've got just the thing. Get ready to be de-stressified...

INT. MAKESHIFT SAUNA - MOMENTS LATER

Katara and Aang are now doing some Bikram yoga stretches inside a sauna hut (it's a type of yoga that involves intense heat). Katara boil-bends some water, filling the room with steam.

KATARA
These yoga stretches can really work wonders if you do them in extreme heat.

She raises her hands high above her head in "sun salutation".

KATARA (cont'd)
Reach uuuup... reach for the sun, feel your chi paths clearing...

Aang does as she's doing. He follows her as she bends into a "forward fold". They inhale and come back to standing.

KATARA (cont'd)
Now close your eyes. How are you feeling?

Aang closes his eyes and concentrates.

AANG
I feel... really warm.

KATARA
Good, good. Go on.

AANG
(starts calm, builds to panic)
Like there's this warm feeling all around me... this heat... like I'm in the Firelord's palace and he's shooting a bunch of fireballs at me... and the whole world is being engulfed in flames!

Katara drops the pose she's in.

KATARA
Maybe your stress is the kind you need to talk out.

EXT. MAKESHIFT OUTDOOR OFFICE - LATER

Sokka, now wearing his FAKE BEARD, is giving Aang a psychotherapy session. His voice is full of adult affectation -- possibly the "fatherly" tone he uses in 3.02.

SOKKA
Why don't you get right down to business and tell me what's been bothering you.

AANG
You know what's bothering me. I have to fight the Firelord in a few days.

SOKKA
Mm-hmm. Tell me more about this... "Fire" Lord. Why are you so afraid of him?

AANG
You said it yourself -- he's the baddest man on the planet. I'm supposed to defeat him and save the world.

SOKKA
Mmm. Life does feel that way some times, doesn't it? Like we're trying to save the world from evil?

AANG
(irritated)
Okay, but what can I do to feel better?

Sokka hands Aang a big, fluffy pillow.

SOKKA
Want to try screaming into this pillow?

Aang takes the pillow and puts it over his mouth.

AANG
(LONG MUFFLED SCREAM)

Sokka smiles and nods "yes". Aang frowns and shakes his head "no".

INT. AZULA'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Azula is having her hair brushed by a female servant as Zuko pays her a visit.

AZULA
Hello, Zu-zu. If you've come for a royal hair-combing, I'm afraid you'll have to wait.

ZUKO
So I guess there's a big war meeting coming up, huh? And apparently I'm not welcome there.

AZULA
What do you mean? Of course you're welcome there.

ZUKO
Oh yeah? I guess that's why no one bothered to tell me about it.

AZULA
Oh Zuko, don't be so dramatic. I'm certain Dad wants you there. You probably just weren't invited because it's so obvious that you're supposed to be there.

ZUKO
Well, were you invited?

AZULA
Of course. I'm the princess.

ZUKO
And I'm the prince!

AZULA
Exactly! So stop acting like a paranoid child.
(beat)
Just go to the meeting.

ZUKO
Forget it. I'm not going.

Zuko storms off.

EXT. ROCKY FLATS - MOMENTS LATER

Toph has now taken control of Aang's de-stressification.

TOPH
Alright, what you need is a good ol'-fashioned back-poundin' to relieve your stress.

Aang lies flat on his back, on top of a rock slab. He gives her the THUMBS-UP from his reclined position.

AANG
Pound away.

Using her Earthbending, Toph begins pounding the hell out of Aang's back by rapidly moving the rocks beneath him. It sounds like a JACKHAMMER.

AANG (cont'd)
(voice vibrating)
Ouch! Oooh! Toph -- I -- think -- this -- is -- bruising -- me !

Toph stops the Earthbending massage.

TOPH
Sorry. I forgot you have baby skin. Well, there's one other thing we can try...

She senses a passing baby boarcupine, and kicks the earth underneath it, sending it flying into her arms. She holds it up to Aang.

TOPH (cont'd)
Acupuncture.

Aang RUNS away.

AANG
(SCREAMING)

INT. MAI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zuko sits, brooding and hurt. Mai goes to him and puts a hand on his shoulder.

MAI
Zuko... it's just a dumb meeting. Who cares?

ZUKO
I don't.

MAI
Well good, you shouldn't. I mean, why would you even want to go? Just think about how things went at the last war meeting you went to.

Zuko SIGHS. He can never forget.

ZUKO
(MOURNFUL SIGH) I know...

Mai tries to snuggle up to him a little.

MAI
You know what will make you feel better?

He gives her a dubious look. Nothing will make him feel better.

MAI (cont'd)
Ordering some servants around. I might be hungry for a whole tray of fruit tarts.
(MORE)

MAI (cont'd)
And maybe a little palanquin ride around town? Double time?

She gives him a playful smile. He just looks away sadly.

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Everyone gets ready for bed.

AANG
Thanks for everything guys.

KATARA
So do you feel less stressed? Ready for a good night's sleep?

AANG
Umm... I kind of think I sort of might slightly feel a little better.
(beat)
Maybe.

SOKKA
(supremely confident)
Then our work here is done.

Aang lies down, attempting to sleep once again. Everyone else settles in, too. As Aang drifts off to sleep...

CROSS DISSOLVE INTO:

HIS WORST NIGHTMARE YET

Initially we dissolve between shots of Aang TOSSING AND TURNING as he struggles with his dreams, and short, frightening shots taken from the nightmares themselves. Then the nightmares take over completely as we cut between various shots of the Firelord, each of his friends in trouble, in pain, screaming, etc. (E.g., a shot of Sokka frozen in pumice, like Han Solo.) We want to include a repeated sequence or two from his previous nightmares, possibly played BACKWARDS for effect. The CUTS increase in pace until they become a HYPERACTIVE BLUR of Aang's fears and anxieties.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - MIDNIGHT

Aang wakes up from his nightmare, actually screaming aloud.

AANG
(BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM)

Toph, Sokka, Katara, and both animals are startled awake by the screaming.

KATARA
What happened, Aang?

AANG
It's the nightmares... they just get worse and worse.

SOKKA
Looks like it's time for another therapy session.

We REVEAL Sokka is already wearing the FAKE BEARD.

AANG
No, that won't help -- nothing helps! There's only one thing I can do... I'm going to stay awake straight through to the invasion.

Aang's eye TWITCHES -- a little nervous tick. The kids look worried.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - DAWN

Katara gets out of her sleeping bag and stretches. She notices Aang, pacing around the campsite, looking seriously sleep-deprived.

AANG
(crazed muttering)
Invasion... all aboard for the invasion.

KATARA
You don't look so good. You sure you can't lie down for just a little nap?

AANG
I told you. I can't go back to sleep.

KATARA
Aang, staying up all night can't be good for you.

AANG
Actually, staying up all night has given me some time to think. And I've realized some big things, Katara.

KATARA
What big things?

Aang smiles.

AANG
I see everything so clearly now. What really matters -- why I'm really doing this. I'm doing it to save the world, but more than that, I'm doing it for the people I love. I'm doing it for you, Katara.

KATARA
Aang, what are you saying?

AANG
I'm saying... I love you.

Suddenly, Aang grabs Katara in a passionate embrace and plants a big, firm soul kiss on her, shocking the hell out of millions of viewers.

KATARA
(overcome)
What are we doing?

AANG
What our hearts have been telling us to do for a long, long time... Baby: you're my forever girl.

Aang closes his eyes and goes back in for another passionate kiss...

KATARA (O.S.)
Aang...

SNAP CUT:

BACK TO REALITY

We suddenly find Aang with his eyes closed and his lips puckered. He SNAPS out of his daydream.

AANG
(startled)
Huh?

KATARA
I was just saying you should take a nap.

AANG
(confused)
Oh. I guess I kind of drifted off into a daydream.

KATARA
What was your dream about?

Aang quickly thinks up a lie.

AANG
(matter of fact)
Living underwater.

KATARA
Sounds neat.

Aang nods.

INT. MAI'S HOUSE - MORNING

Zuko is sound asleep. He's suddenly awakened by an urgent KNOCK at the door. He opens the door to reveal a MILITARY MESSENGER.

MILITARY MESSENGER
Prince Zuko, everyone's waiting for you.

ZUKO
What?

MILITARY MESSENGER
The high admirals, high generals, the war ministers, and the princess have all arrived. You're the only person missing.

ZUKO
So... my dad wants me at the meeting?

MILITARY MESSENGER
The Firelord said he would not start until you arrived, sir.

Zuko's face beams with relief and pride.

INT. WOODS - DAY

Aang is now training his fingers to the bone, practicing his combat skills on a crudely made sparring dummy -- the head is made from his Firelord "noodle portrait" from 3.02.

AANG
Put 'em up, Firelord!

Aang sends a gust of wind at the dummy. It misses the target and travels across the clearing, where Sokka is forging an oversized suit of armor. The errant wind blast is so strong it blows the hammer right out of his hand.

SOKKA
Hey! I'm trying to build Appa some armor here, so he doesn't have to go into the invasion naked.
(shaking his head)
He's <u>your</u> bison.

Aang looks at the dummy and seeks cover behind a large rock.

AANG
Ozai's defense is impeccable. I'll have to try a different approach...

He leaps out from behind the rock, firing powerful shots of wind, rapid-fire with each hand.

AANG (cont'd)
(LONG, FURIOUS BATTLE YELL)

He finishes the assault and realizes that he's blown all of the foliage of the surrounding vegetation, causing lots more critters to scatter. To his chagrin, the practice dummy still looks sparkly-clean and untouched.

AANG (cont'd)
You think you're untouchable, don't you, Mr. Firelord?

PECULIAR VOICE (O.S.)
Boy, you're really starting to lose it, kid.

Aang turns around to see no one but Momo standing there.

AANG
Momo? Did you hear something?

He looks around some more and (when he is not looking at Momo) he hears the voice again...

PECULIAR VOICE (O.S.)
No, but I said something.

Aang looks at Momo. Is it possible?

AANG
Uhh...

MOMO
You, my friend, are just a few plums short of a fruit pie.

Aang closes his eyes, and SHAKES it off, as we...

SNAP CUT:

BACK TO REALITY

Aang looks at Momo, still standing in front of him, and waits to see what he will say.

MOMO
(CONCERNED CHITTERS)

AANG
(relieved)
That's more like it.

He PATS him on the head.

AANG (cont'd)
I'm so tired, that for a second there I imagined you were talking to me.

Momo COCKS his head to the side, confused.

AANG (cont'd)
Oh Momo, let me explain...

We WIDEN to reveal Sokka, Katara, and Toph watching Aang and Momo.

FROM THE KIDS' P.O.V.:

AANG
(PATIENT, EXPLAINING CHITTERING)

MOMO
(CHITTERS OF UNDERSTANDING)

AANG
(LAUGHTER AND MORE CHITTERS)

KATARA
Aang?

Aang turns to her. He sees the group looking very worried -- we pan to each of them as they express their concern.

KATARA (cont'd)
We're all starting to get a little worried about you.

SOKKA
You've been awake too long.

TOPH
And you're acting downright weird.

APPA
You've got to take care of yourself, you can't go on like this.

Without skipping a beat, Aang responds to all of them.

AANG
Look, I appreciate what you guys are saying. But the stress and the nightmares, they were just too much. Staying awake is the best way for me to deal with it.

MOMO
Yeah, leave the kid alone!

APPA
Hey, who asked you?

AANG
Guys, come on...

APPA
No. I'm sick of this guy always mouthing off and telling me what to do.

MOMO
Oh, you don't like it?
(challenging him)
Well, let's go right now...

Aang turns to Sokka.

AANG
Sokka, what should we do?

SOKKA
About what?

AANG
About that!

When Aang turns back Appa and Momo are now in full SAMURAI ARMOR, doing battle with bo staffs.

Then, Aang watches as everything around him begins to stop making sense. His mind begins to spin out of control: Trees begin to bend in rhythm and dance! Rocks form in a line like a caterpillar and begin running around in zig-zags...

MOMO
(SAMURAI YELL)

APPA
(SAMURAI YELL)

Appa and Momo run toward each other and whack each other repeatedly. The sparring dummy gets excited over the action and begins cheering on the fight with shadowboxing motions. Some BUSHES (or other appropriate local flora) now start CLAPPING their branches and CHANTING, some rooting for Appa and some rooting for Momo.

BUSHES
Appa! Appa! Appa!

OTHER BUSHES
Momo! Momo! Momo!

AANG
Come on, guys... we're all on the same side.

Next, Guru Pathik -- but with SIX ARMS -- passes by on a cloud, holding a unique musical instrument.

GURU PATHIK
(singing)
Chakrahs, chakrahs -- everybody loves chakrahs!/ Chakrahs, chakrahs -- chakrah sandwich tastes good! Yum.

Aang has had enough -- he covers his face with his hands.

AANG
(SCREAMS) I just need to jump in a cold waterfall!

With that, Aang runs off into the forest.

EXT. FIRE NATION PALACE - EVENING

As the meeting lets out, Zuko comes out of the palace with a blank expression. He is greeted by Mai on the steps.

MAI
So... how'd it go?

ZUKO
(blankly)
When I got to the meeting, everyone welcomed me. My father had saved me a seat -- he wanted me next to him. I was literally at his right hand.

MAI
Zuko, that's wonderful. You must be happy...

Zuko looks down.

ZUKO
During the meeting I was the perfect prince -- the son my father wanted.
(anguished beat)
But I wasn't me.

Off of Zuko's exquisitely pained reaction -- a simultaneous nadir of his dreams and hopes thus far and a zenith of self-understanding -- as his soul finally reaches the turning point for which it's been destined...

CUT TO:

EXT. BLACK CLIFFS - CAMPSITE - EVENING

Aang returns to the camp, defeated by the pressure. To his surprise, the campsite is now covered in thick, soft "clouds." They form a big, comfortable bed -- made out of wood, rock, and fluffy, cottony cloud-like cushions.

AANG
Oh look: another hallucination. An imaginary bed made out of clouds.

TOPH
(slightly offended)
Hey, it's real. We spent hours working on it.

SOKKA
We made it for you. A good night's sleep will probably take the crazy away. We hope.

Aang shakes his head, "no."

AANG
Look, you guys keep telling me I need to sleep, but I can't! The invasion's <u>tomorrow</u>!

KATARA
Aang...

AANG
No, Katara! There's still so much I haven't learned. I don't need sleep. What I need is practice!
(then, to Katara)
Quick -- hit me.

Aang looks exhausted as he tries to get into sparring position.

KATARA
I'm not going to hit you.

TOPH
You want me to do it?

Sokka elbows Toph to shut her up. Katara walks up to Aang, takes him by his shoulders and looks him square in the eye.

KATARA
Listen to me. You've been training for this since the day we met. I've seen your progress. You're smart, brave, and strong enough.

AANG
You really think so?

SOKKA
We all do. You can do this -- you're ready.

TOPH
You're the man, Twinkle Toes.

Aang looks at his friends and nods with new-found confidence. Then, he yawns. Katara takes Aang by the hand and leads him over to the bed. He climbs into it.

AANG
(almost asleep)
Thanks, guys. You know what? I think I am ready.

He's asleep as soon as his head hits the pillow. The other kids watch with big smiles on their faces.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. FIRELORD'S PALACE - NIGHT

Aang finds himself in a familiar situation -- he's in the midst of an invasion, right outside the Firelord's throne room. He knocks down the door...

INT. FIRELORD'S THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aang strikes a fighting stance, and finds himself face to face with his nemesis, this time with a renewed confidence.

AANG
Your days of tyranny are over, Firelord.

FIRELORD
Really? You're going to take me out? You're not even wearing pants!

Aang doesn't even flinch.

AANG
(ultra-confident)
No, Firelord Ozai... <u>You're</u> not wearing pants.

Sure enough, the Firelord looks down at his crotch to see that he's completely naked from the waist down (tastefully concealed, of course). He covers his privates as he turns bright red.

FIRELORD OZAI
NOOOOOO! My royal parts are showing! (NIGHTMARISH SCREAM)

As Ozai screams, we CRANE OUT of the Fire Nation palace.

FADE OUT.

<u>END OF SHOW</u>